



Central Bedfordshire Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board

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Title of Report The Implications for High Dependency Children and Young People of the Special Educational Needs Reforms

Meeting Date: 21 March 2013

Responsible Officer Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services

Presented by: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services

Action Required: The Board is asked to:

1. Consider and comment on the implications for Health of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) reforms.

Executive Summary	
1.	This report looks at the implications for Health Services of the Special Educational Needs Reforms in Central Bedfordshire. The report is presented to the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board for discussion and action.

Background	
2.	The Green Paper "Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability" published in March 2011 proposes a new single category of special educational need (SEN) and a single assessment process. Children with SEN should be identified in both early-years settings and in schools.
3.	By 2014, the Government wants those children identified with SEN to have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which will support them from birth to the age of 25. This will replace the current statutory SEN assessment and statement and is intended to allow professionals from different areas to work together more closely. Services will work with the family to agree a plan for the child which is reviewed regularly to reflect the child's changing needs and is clear about who is responsible for provision.
4.	The new 'Education, Health and Care Plan' will provide the same statutory protection to parents as the statement of SEN and will include a commitment from all parties to provide their services. The Green Paper also proposes a personal budget by 2014 for all families with children with a statement of SEN or Education, Health and Care Plan.
5.	Twenty Pathfinders are testing out how to reform the system within existing statutory

	frameworks.
Detailed Recommendation	
6.	<p>Strategic leadership of the programme in Central Bedfordshire is located in Children's Services and work is being taken forward led by a multi-agency Project Board which has representation from the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. The aim is to achieve the following key outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multiagency approach to assessment and planning with clear lines of accountability; • Joint planning and decision making arrangements; • Links between support planning and strategic commissioning, particularly through the Health and Wellbeing Board; • Pooled or aligned budgets.
7.	<p>Key requirements of Children's Services and the BCCG will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint planning and commissioning to include the education, health and care provision reasonably required, the provision to be secured and by whom. • A local offer covering provision in the area involving children and young people with SEN and their parents in its preparation. • A single assessment process and the production of the Education, Health and Care Plan. • Personal budgets and direct payments (Social Care, Health and Education). • An increase in mediation prior to the appeals process to Tribunal. • Transition post 16. • Voluntary and community engagement. • Parental involvement at all stages
8.	<p>Consideration will need to be given to establishing a Common Delivery Framework (CDF) that can best meet the needs of children and families within Central Bedfordshire and act as a starting point for decision making. Emerging findings of the Pathfinders suggests that the following are key elements to the future progress of a single assessment process and an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing Governance/ Project Board • Mapping onto existing procedures/ building new systems • Determining service accountability/ responsibility • Developing effective partnerships between education, health, social care and commissioning • Considering and developing the Key Worker role (including training) • Training/ staff development to support successful multiagency working • Defining the role of the voluntary and community sector.
9.	<p>It is recommended that a further report is brought to the Health and Wellbeing Board in the Autumn of 2013 as the programme moves forward to update the Board on progress towards the 2014 implementation date.</p>
Issues	
10.	<p>Information sharing between agencies is an emerging theme from the Pathfinders in relation to establishing a single assessment. Aligned with this are the difficulties associated with the variation in IT systems across services. This difficulty is likely to</p>

	be encountered within Central Bedfordshire and consideration therefore needs to be given as to how this can be addressed in order to better support multiagency working.
	Conclusion and next steps.
11.	By developing stronger local strategic planning and commissioning arrangements, the local authority and local health services will play a significant role in ensuring that children and young people with SEN or who are disabled receive high quality support, and that parents are confident in the system.
Strategy Implications	
12.	This report relates to the following cross cutting priority in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy: • Improved outcomes for those who are vulnerable
Governance & Delivery	
13.	Reports on progress go to The Children's Trust which oversees the delivery of the SEND programme.
Management Responsibility	
14.	Responsibility for ensuring that action is taken to meet the Health requirements of those with SEND rests with Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

Risk Analysis

Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk
Failure to deliver good outcomes for those with SEND	Possible	Significant	Delivery of the programme plan

Source Documents	Location (including url where possible)
Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability	Department for Education : www.education.gov.uk
Children and Families Bill February 2013	Department for Education: www.education.gov.uk